



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

**CHARLES S. STRINGFELLOW.**

---

The announcement of the death of Major Charles S. Stringfellow, which occurred at his residence in Richmond on the 11th day of August last, while not unexpected, was received by the members of this bar with deep sorrow. To many it came as a personal bereavement.

He was a son of the Rev. Horace Stringfellow and Louise Strother, his wife, and was born on the 3rd day of March, 1837, in Millwood Parish, Clarke County, Virginia, of which parish his father was then rector. Three or four years thereafter the family removed thence to the city of Washington, his father having accepted a call to Trinity Church in that city. The latter was a man of strong personality and intellectual force. He had been trained for the bar, and in fact practiced law for a while, and successfully, before he entered the ministry. A not infrequent attendant at his church in Washington, and a warm personal friend, was the great commoner, Henry Clay, who, impressed by the vigor of his preaching, gave him the soubriquet of "God's prosecuting attorney," which stuck to him through life. In 1846 he was called to St. Paul's Church, in Petersburg, and changed his residence accordingly.

There the son, the subject of this sketch, attended school and made good progress in his studies. He was a remarkably precocious child, as he could not remember, he used to say, when he could not read and write. He early developed a love for books and an extraordinary memory, qualities that stood him in good stead in his subsequent career. When only eleven years old he was sent to the Episcopal High School, near Alexandria, where he spent four years, and where he made an excellent record, especially in the languages, in the study of which he delighted.

At the age of fifteen he entered William and Mary College. During his second collegiate year he was offered, young as he was, a position in a classical school at Williamsburg to teach Latin and Greek. To fulfill the requirements of this engagement he was obliged to drop one or two of his college classes, but feeling that he had plenty of time before him, he accepted

the offer, as it enabled him to pay his own way at college, and thereby to relieve his father of what to him was not a small burden. And so it came about that while still but a boy he began the practical work of a man's life.

Of his then scholars two are now living in Richmond, Captain John A. Coke, a member of this bar, and Colonel Miles Cary.

While at college, besides teaching and diligently prosecuting his studies, he took great interest in the literary society to which he belonged, and distinguished himself as a debator. Upon his graduation, on the 4th of July, 1855, he was one of the chosen speakers of the graduating class, and was honored, besides, he being elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

To raise means to attend the University he taught school for two years after leaving William and Mary, during which time he improved his mind, and largely added to his stock of knowledge, by assiduous and judicious reading.

In October, 1857, he entered the University. During his first session there he was awarded the Debator's Medal in the Jefferson Literary Society. During the following session an episode occurred which deserves to be here recorded. At the election of a final orator in the society there were two competitors for the honor—Stringfellow and another. The former generously cast his ballot for his competitor, while the latter voted for himself, and Stringfellow's vote elected him. Upon this fact being proclaimed, the competitor withdrew, and Stringfellow was declared unanimously elected, but he refused to accept, and a third man was elected.

Besides taking several academic tickets, he studied law, at the University, and in the fall of 1859, having been admitted to the bar, he began to practice law in this city, and soon afterwards settled in Petersburg, as the junior member of the firm of Watkins and Stringfellow. He was then twenty-two years old. At the very outset he gave promise of a brilliant career. He soon appeared in a number of cases of importance and public interest, and at once acquired the respect and confidence of the community, both as a lawyer and a man.

In the presidential campaign of 1860 he ardently, by public addresses and otherwise, supported the cause of Breckenbridge,

who afterwards became his staunch friend. He served for several months during the Civil War on General Breckenbridge's staff, and often spoke of him as one of the noblest men he ever knew.

Like his brothers, James, Martin and Robert, Major Stringfellow served in the Confederate Army throughout the war. In June 1861, he enlisted in the Petersburg Rifles, then known as Company E, 12th Regiment, Virginia Volunteers, but was soon afterwards appointed Assistant Adjutant General, with the rank of Captain, on the staff of Brigadier General Sam Jones, then recently promoted and assigned to the command of Bartow's brigade in the place of that gallant officer who fell at the first battle of Manassas. In this capacity he served during the greater part of the war, being promoted in 1862 to the rank of Major.

The headquarters of General Jones were at different times at Pensacola, Mobile, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Charleston, S. C., and Dublin Depot, in this State; and so it was that the Major, in the performance of his duties as a staff officer, was brought into close contact with many officers, civil and military, in the Confederate service. He had many legal questions to consider, and altogether he acquired a wide experience in dealing with men and difficult problems. A publication by Congress, known as the Records of the Rebellion, contains a number of letters and other documents written and signed by him, and a number that were written by him but signed by his commanding general.

On the 24th day of April, 1862, having obtained a leave of absence from the army for the purpose, he married Miss Margaret Burwell, a beautiful and altogether lovely daughter of Mr. Blair Burwell, of Indian Camp, Powhatan County, a fortunate union blessed with years of happiness on both sides.

At the close of the war, and upon his return to Virginia, the Major's worldly possessions consisted of a broken-down horse, a saddle and bridle, and the suit of clothes upon his back. Returning to Petersburg and to the practice of law, he resolutely started to work, not dismayed by the gloomy prospect before him, and the first year his labors were rewarded by a return sufficient for the comfortable support of his family. The next year he formed a partnership with Robert and John Mann, from which Robert Mann soon afterwards retired. The business

of the firm prospered from the beginning. John Mann was a painstaking chancery lawyer, and a first rate commissioner in chancery, who attended to business in the office, rarely appearing in court, while Stringfellow very largely devoted himself to litigated matters in court. For years he appeared on one side or the other of almost every important case in the courts of Petersburg and the neighboring counties, besides, as the official reports show, frequently appearing in the Court of Appeals, and occasionally in the Federal Courts, including the Supreme Court.

It would be interesting to refer specially, and in detail, to some of those cases, but the limits of the occasion forbid.

In 1881 he removed from Petersburg to Richmond and entered into a partnership with his brother-in-law, Captain Richard G. Pegram and Otto G. Kean, both accomplished and able lawyers. Mr. Kean shortly afterwards retiring from the firm, the partnership between Captain Pegram and Major Stringfellow continued under the name of Pegram and Stringfellow. The firm enjoyed an extensive practice until its dissolution by the death of Captain Pegram, in 1896, after which time the Major practiced alone until he retired from the practice, three or four years ago.

In any just analysis that can be made of Major Stringfellow's mind, and of his achievements at the bar, it must be said that he was a man of marked ability. He had a bright, logical and versatile mind, with the added invaluable quality of common sense. He was quick to see the point or points in a case, and having grasped a point he held it with a strong hand. Whether in retaining his own views, or in combating those of his adversary, he displayed readiness and force of a high order. He was learned in the law, methodical and industrious, and as an all-round lawyer, as the phrase is, he had no superior at this bar. As an advocate he held high rank. He was a fluent, earnest and ornate speaker, and not infrequently rose to the height of real eloquence. He was an accomplished draftsman and a safe counsellor, although it is proper to say that after the battle was once joined there was not much of a compromising spirit about him. Usually, if the expression may be used, when he drew the sword for a client he threw away the scabbard.

By the oath which was anciently administered to the lawyers of England the obligation was imposed to present nothing false, but to *make war* for one's clients. Major Stringfellow made war for his clients, and in their behalf was a hard fighter. At the same time, whilst his was an entire devotion to his client's interests, he maintained in the practice of the law a high standard. He presented nothing false; his duty to the court he performed with not less fidelity than his duty to his clients, and to counsel he was courteous and fair. His conduct was never otherwise than such as to merit the approval of all just men. Nothing could have tempted him to aught that was unprofessional or in any way unworthy of the highest ideals of the profession.

Destined for the law, and believing with Mr. Webster that "justice is the great interest of man on earth," he devoted himself exclusively to the law. From his admission to the bar until physical infirmities compelled his recent retirement from practice, his time, with the exception of the period of the Civil War, was entirely occupied with his professional work. No outside employment attracted him. He consequently never held or sought public office.

That such a man should have attained an eminent place at the bar was a matter of course.

In his private relations he was a devoted husband, an affectionate father, a loyal friend, a genial companion. With his rare intelligence, the fruit of extensive reading and observation, and keeping, as he did, abreast of the times, his conversation in social intercourse was lively and instructive. His views upon all subjects in which he took an interest were decided, and, when occasion required, freely expressed; and if sometimes his judgment of men and things seemed severe he was never intentionally unjust.

In short, he so played his part as that in passing, as let us hope he has done, to his reward, he has left an example worthy of imitation.

Therefore be it resolved:

I. That the bar of the city of Richmond has received with deep sorrow the announcement of the death of Major Charles S.

Stringfellow, long an honored member of this bar, and whose memory deserves to be cherished by the bar as honorable to the profession of which he was a distinguished member.

II. That to the family of our deceased brother we extend the assurance of our heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement, and that a copy of these proceedings be communicated to them.

III. That the chair appoint a member of the bar for each of the courts, State and Federal, held in the city of Richmond, to present to the said courts, respectively, a copy of these proceedings, with the request that they be entered upon their records.

---

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the preamble and resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Bar of the city of Richmond upon the death of Major Charles S. Stringfellow held on the 17th day of October, 1912.

R. W. CARRINGTON,  
*Secretary.*